

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 15, 18-24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, regarding Claim 15, at least one of the opposing sides of the first connector being removably connected to one of the opposing sides of the second connector by an ultrasonic weld, whereby the first connector is separable from the second connector by breaking the ultrasonic weld such that the first connector forms an individual connector unit; regarding Claim 26, at least one of the opposing sides of each the connector is removably connected to one of the opposing sides of an adjacent the connector by an ultrasonic weld, and further wherein each the connector is separable from its adjacent the connector by breaking the ultrasonic weld to form an individual connector unit; regarding Claim 34, the plurality of joined nonconductive housings are separable from one another by breaking the respective ultrasonic welds as the cable is spliced to successive the conductive connecting devices along the connector stick, thereby forming a plurality of individual connector units; regarding Claim 39, force generated in securing the cable to the respective connectors separates the respective connectors from the connector stick by breaking the respective ultrasonic welds, thereby forming a plurality of individual connector units each having cable spliced thereto; regarding Claim

41, breaking the ultrasonic weld between the one connector and an adjacent connector while securing the cable to the one connector using the conductive crimping device; regarding Claim 42, the connectors are individually separable from the stick by breaking the ultrasonic welds to form individual connector units and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims.

Applicant's arguments, see Pages 2-5, filed April 18, 2008 have been fully considered and are deemed persuasive.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee S. Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edwin A. Leon/  
Primary Examiner  
AU 2833